

so many in our area are praying for you more than they have ever prayed for themselves. I am well aware that my words will not soften your overwhelming grief, but in the words of President Lincoln, "May God give you that consolation which is beyond all earthly power."

On behalf of the First District of Michigan, I would like to express my profound sadness for the loss of such a noble young man as Robert Voakes. Northern Michigan has certainly lost one of its finest, and his memory and service will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIVES OF JOSH BURCH AND BRETT FULTON—
FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY FIREFIGHTERS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two Florida Division of Forestry firefighters who perished in the line of duty on June 20 while fighting the Blue Ribbon Wildfire in Hamilton County, Florida.

On Monday, June 20, Josh Burch, 31, of Lake City, Florida, and Brett Fulton, 52, of White Springs, Florida, paid the ultimate price for our safety, giving up their lives for our protection. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families and loved ones as we remember the invaluable work that they and their fellow firefighters perform each and every day.

The Blue Ribbon fire has burned across hundreds of thousands of acres in Northeast Florida and taken the lives of two courageous and dedicated firefighters and family men. Let us honor Josh and Brett and never forget their sacrifice to Florida and the nation.

KENNETH RILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenneth Riley, a Staff Sergeant in the Army retiring following more than 30 years of military service. He joined the Army in 1976 through the delayed entry program, and after high-school graduation in June 1977 he was called to active duty. After finishing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he was deployed to Karlsruhe, Germany until October of 1979.

Upon returning Mr. Riley was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. After serving 6 years of active duty, he was discharged in June of 1980 at which time he entered the Army Reserves. Mr. Riley served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003–2004, 2005–2006, and 2009–2010, eventually retiring in November of 2010.

Mr. Riley has been married to Mrs. Helen Riley for 32 years. They have two children, Tabitha Brown and Tanya Riley. Mr. Riley has 6 grandchildren with another on the way.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Kenneth Riley, a true patriot that has dedicated a major portion of his life to

serve his nation. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Riley in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW
TIMMER FOR OBTAINING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Matthew Timmer for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Matthew has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2112, the Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture-FDA Appropriations bill. This legislation continues the Republican majority's destructive pattern of underfunding community needs and undermining the country's fragile economic recovery.

Total funding in H.R. 2112 is \$3 billion less than last year's funding level for Agriculture appropriations. As a result, there are far fewer resources to meet the growing needs of the American people. This legislation cuts critical nutrition programs for vulnerable women, children and elderly. It puts every family at greater risk of food-borne illness by slashing funding for food safety. And it gives Wall Street speculators more freedom to inflate gas prices by cutting funding to police oil speculation.

The House Republican majority is forcing these dangerous cuts on our communities and arguing that sacrifice is needed to reduce federal deficits. Unfortunately, these are disingenuous arguments that hide the Republican's true budget priorities. While making drastic cuts to successful community programs in this and other appropriations bills, the Republican majority is protecting hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans in their 2012 budget, including nearly \$4 billion in special tax subsidies for the largest

oil companies. Republicans have failed to justify their choice to spend precious federal resources on tax giveaways for Americans who have the most while handing deep cuts to those who have the least.

The following provisions of H.R. 2112 are the most troubling:

Women, Infants and Children, WIC: Though House Democrats were able to restore \$147 million in funding, the WIC program will still be slashed by over \$500 million from last year's level. Over 9 million women and young children benefit from this vital program that offers nutrition and health care assistance to some of our most vulnerable populations. H.R. 2112 will deny over 350,000 low-income women and infants access to the program.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Emergency Food Assistance Program, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: House Republicans chose to cut by over \$100 million these vital safety net programs that keep millions of Americans from going hungry at night. H.R. 2112 also cuts \$2 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program) reserve fund. This funding is set aside in the event that participation is greater than expected.

Food banks, emergency shelters, Americans who rely on food stamps, and seniors living at or below the poverty level will suffer from these cuts. With American families struggling to find jobs in this slow economic recovery, Congress should be strengthening the nutrition safety net, not weakening it. Minnesota has seen a 19 percent increase in food stamp usage over the past year while our food banks are under enormous strain to deal with the surging demand for their services.

Food and Drug Administration, FDA: Recent deadly E. coli outbreaks across Europe are only the latest evidence of why it is reckless for House Republicans to underfund the President's request for the FDA by 21 percent. Congress passed landmark food safety reforms last year to protect public health. Yet, without adequate resources to implement these new protections, Americans will be exposed to unnecessary risks every time they visit the grocery store.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC: Wall Street speculators are contributing to skyrocketing gas prices by inflating the price of oil. As families in Minnesota and across the country struggle to pay these costs, House Republicans are choosing to cut the federal entity charged with policing speculation. In H.R. 2112, the CFTC receives 44 percent less funding than requested by President Obama.

International Food Aid: The United States has a critical national security interest in helping to alleviate hunger in around the world, particularly in places such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. House Republicans cut the budget for the P.L. 480 Title II program that provides emergency food aid assistance by 38 percent. The successful McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program is also cut by 10 percent.

Stopping Clean Water Act Enforcement: House Republicans inserted a legislative provision in H.R. 2112 to stop the Army Corps of Engineers from meeting its legal responsibilities under the Clean Water Act to protect our Nation's wetlands and tributaries.